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EARLY CHILDHOOD
COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

SOUTHEAST Comprehensive Center
at American Institutes for Research

October 2018

SECC Early Childhood Community of Practice E-Newsletter

Greetings! Thank you for taking the time to participate in the community of practice (CoP). We encourage you to continue visiting the [CoP website](#). Here are some of the latest updates!

State Highlights

The Alabama Department of Early Childhood Education will hold the [Alabama Early Childhood Education Conference](#) in Mobile on January 3–4, 2019. The theme for this year's conference is Our Future is Here! The schedule of events will include speakers, sessions, and interactive presentations designed to provide professional development and networking opportunities for early childhood professionals working throughout the continuum of early care and learning from infants through Grade 3. More than 3,000 participants are expected to attend. Registration is open until November 30, 2018. Registration and additional information are available [online](#).

Professional Development Resource Spotlight

[Supporting Your Child's Literacy Development at Home](#) is a free, online, interactive tutorial for parents, families, and caregivers created by the National Center on Improving Literacy (NCIL). NCIL's mission is to increase access to, and use of, evidence-based approaches to screen, identify, and teach students with literacy-related disabilities, including dyslexia. This module is the first of four designed to provide families with evidence-based strategies, tips, and activities to increase their children's literacy skills at home. There are three age groups from which to select: preschool, elementary, and adolescent. Embedded videos and other interactive links for each literacy concept allow participants to learn, try out related strategies, and see activities in action. Other features of the module include closed captioning, a written transcript, and an audio download.

Resource Spotlight

A new special report from the Education Commission of the States, [Transitions and Alignment From Preschool to Kindergarten](#), underlines the importance of providing successful transitions between preschool and kindergarten. The authors identify and describe two key elements that contribute to students' early successes in learning: (a) effective transitions from preschool to kindergarten; and (b) authentic alignment of standards, curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The report provides child-focused and family strategies, along with program-level examples of best practices that support seamless transitions. Also included are profiles of how three states (California, Massachusetts, and West Virginia) are addressing the need for smooth transitions between preschool and kindergarten programs.

Research Spotlight

[Access to Early Care and Education for Low-Income Hispanic Children and Families: A Research Synthesis](#), recently published by the National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families, looks at the latest research on what is known about the access Hispanic families, especially those considered low-income, have to early care and education (ECE). The study found that although more low-income Hispanic families are using ECE programs and services, they are still less likely than other low-income groups to be involved in ECE. The study also highlights some of the constraints and facilitators to ECE access and includes recommendations based on key findings.

For other early childhood news and information, please visit the CoP website. We appreciate your continued collaboration.

The ECCoP Team

Contact Us

440 Knox Abbott Drive, Suite 200, Cayce, SC 29033 | 803-936-0750 | southeast-cc.org

Beth Howard-Brown, Director, bhoward-brown@air.org

Tammie Causey-Konaté, Deputy Director, tcausey@air.org

Kathleen Theodore, Early Childhood Project Lead, ktheodore@air.org

